

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011770

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PORG

SUBJECT: SPRING SCHEDULE OF NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETING

REF: A) USNATO 288; B) USNATO 142; C) STATE 5827

1. AS INDICATED REF C, WE SHARE VIEW FAVORING EARLIER TIME-FRAME FOR REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE SCHEDULE AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY IS (REF B) STRIKES A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN CONTENDING CONSIDERATIONS, I.E., ALLOWING ADEQUATE TIME FOR COUNCIL REVIEW BEFORE PRESS OF PRE-SUMMIT WORK AND HAVING EXPERTS MEETINGS AS LATE IN SEMI-ANNUAL NATO CYCLE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO LESSEN CHANCES OF REPORTS BEING OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

2. WITH REGARD TO SUGGESTED SCHEDULE REVISION (REF A), WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR APRIL 11-14 DATE FOR SOVIET/EE
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MEETING, PARTICULARLY AS IT DOVETAILS WITH ENVISIONED TRAVEL OF ONE OF US EXPERTS. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME VALUE IN HAVING EXPERTS REPORT AVAILABLE AS REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR MC 161, THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH AN INPUT WOULD APPEAR TO BE MARGINAL;AND NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WEEK OF APRIL 2, COULD

SERVE SIMILAR PURPOSE. (NOTE: US PARTICIPANT FOR
POLITICAL REPORT IN MC 161 PARTICIPATES IN PREPARATION
AND IS ENTIRELY INFORMED OF US CONTRIBUTION TO
REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETING. SIMILAR SITUATION MOST
LIKELY EXISTS AMONG OTHER ALLIES.) WE CAN SEE MERIT,
HOWEVER, IN RETAINING THE SOVIET/EE REPORT AS THE LAST
IN THE CYCLE OF EXPERTS REPORTS, GIVEN ITS IMPORTANCE
IN THE NATO CONTEXT. ACCORDINGLY, AT NEXT OPPORTUNITY
MISSION SHOULD EXPRESS WASHINGTON PREFERENCE THAT ORIGINAL
IS SCHEDULE BE ACCEPTED.

CHRISTOPHER

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